(Rs. in crore)

Railway Electrification Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2002-03	239.17	251.97
2003-04	207.98	207.44
2004-05	237.49	186.95
TOTAL	684.64	646.36
Gauge Conversion*		
2002-03	768.40	847.52
2003-04	1054	1217.56
2004-05	1073	1067.24
	(Revised Estimate)	(Revised Estimate)

* The allocation/ Expenditure do not include those Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) works where funds have been provided by RVNL.

(c) A target of Electrification of 350 Route Kilometres and gauge conversion of 980 Kilometres has been fixed during 2005-06 and an outlay of Rs. 160 crore & Rs. 690 crore respectively has been provided.

Strengthening the RPF

†4783. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any necessary steps to further strengthen the Railway Protection Force, keeping in view, the safety of passengers in all the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the strategy formulated and implemented by Government to make strict arrangements for checking the crimes taking place everyday in the trains and for the safety of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Vehicles costing above Rs. 9 crore, wireless sets costing above

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rs. 4 crore and effective weapons costing over Rs. 3. crore have been provided to Railway Protection Force. Manpower is also being augmented.

(c) The Railway Protection Force has been providing a daily average of 1217 escort parties in the passenger trains in co-ordination with the State Government w.e.f. 01.07.2004 for which an average of 3712 staff are deployed. 480 Stations on average are also given additional security by Railway Protection Force with deployment of an average 2705 personnel daily. This deployment is in addition to the Government Railway Polic personnel deployed on trains and Railway premises in order to further strengthen the security. Due to increased presence of uniformed personnel, more cases tend to get noticed, noted and registered.

Gauge conversion in Southern Railways

4784. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern Railway had fixed a target of 300 km. for gauge conversion this year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Sourthern Railway had completed gauge conversion of 250 km. during the last year;

(c) what are the routes to be completed during this year for gauge conversion;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Southern Railway had decided to increase the speed of all express trains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) During 2005-06, 308 kms of gauge conversion is targeted for completion on Southern Railway. In addition 55 kms of spill-over of last year (Thanjavur-Tiruvarur section) will also get completed in 2005-06.

(b) During 2004-05, 98 kms of gauge conversion has been completed on Southern Railways in gauge conversion and metropolitan transport plan heads.

(c) During 2005-06, gauge conversion of Kumbakonam-Mayladuturai (32 kms), Manamadurai-Mandapam (96 kms), Trichy-Puddukottai (52 kms), Vridhachalam-Attur (83 kms), Quilon-Punalur (45 kms) and Thanjavur-Tiruvarur (55 kms) metre gauge section is to be completed.